

Fort Sheridan Captain's Quarters
(Building No. 12)

149 Logan Loop

Fort Sheridan

Lake County

Illinois

HABS No. IL-1113-3

HABS

ILL,

49-FTSH,

1/3-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20243

FORT SHERIDAN, CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS
(Building No. 12)~~FORT SHERIDAN HISTORIC DISTRICT~~HABS
ILL,
49-FTSH,
1/3-

Location: 149 Logan Loop.
Fort Sheridan, Lake County, Illinois.

USGS Highland Park Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 16. 433315. 4674160.

Present Owner
and Occupant: United States Army.

Present Use: Officer's Quarters.

Significance: This building is one of thirteen similar brick buildings designed as Captain's Quarters by Holabird and Roche in the late 1880s. These houses illustrate early efforts by the Army to provide housing for officers and their families. Their distinctive appearance sets them apart from the officer's quarters constructed at a later period from plans which originated in the Office of the Quartermaster General.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1890.
2. Architect: Holabird and Roche, Chicago.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Army from date of construction to the present.
4. Contractor: Williams and Co. and James Corse and Son and Co.
5. Original plan and construction: A rectangular building constructed of buff-cream brick with a gable roof and the entrance in the gable end. The ridge of the roof runs north-south.
6. Alterations and additions: This house has been altered very little. One of the windows on the east side has been partially infilled with brick. The original brick beneath the roof line of the gable end has been replaced by a pink-red brick. The original slate covering on the roof has been replaced by asphalt shingles. Fireplaces have been removed from the dining room and one of the living rooms.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Original architectural drawings: Center for Cartographic and Architectural Archives, Record Group 77, Miscellaneous Forts File, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. Plans and elevations, 1888.

Directorate of Facilities Engineering, Fort Sheridan, Illinois.
Elevations and details. n.d.

Holabird and Root, 300 West Adams St., Chicago, Illinois. 60606.
Plans and elevations. 1889 Series. Drawings are water damaged.

2. Old views:

Mackern, H. G. Fort Sheridan: At Attention and Rest,
Chicago, H. G. Mackern, 1897. n.p.

Views of Fort Sheridan, Record Group 92. Audio Visual Archives,
National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C.
Reference Nos. 92-F-61A-3, 92-F-61A-4, 92-F-61A-5, 92-F-61A-6,
92-F-61A-7.

3. Bibliography:

Papers Relating to Fort Sheridan. Office of the Quartermaster General Consolidated Correspondence Files, 1784-1915 and Office of the Quartermaster General, Construction Division, Record Group 92. U.S. Army Continental Command, 6th Corps Area Records, Record Group 394, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C.

Real Property Records, Directorate of Facilities Engineering,
Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

Prepared by Sally Kress Tompkins
Architectural Historian
Historic American
Buildings Survey
June 1979

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: A brick building with the entrance in the gable end through a wide rounded brick arch over an inset porch. A raked parapet with terra cotta coping distinguishes the front and rear. Constructed in 1890, the building was influenced by the currently popular Richardsonian Romanesque architecture, a style which easily adapted to the needs of a military post.
2. Condition of fabric: Necessary repairs have been made. The building remains in excellent condition with little alteration to its original fabric.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The building is a rectangular block with the entrance in the short end. It measures 60'-5" by 31'-9". There is a short side wing measuring 2'-7" by 29'-3" and a rear entryway measuring 5'-7" by 5'-7". The building is two-and-one-half stories with a full basement. It is two bays across the facade.
2. Foundations: A limestone rubble foundation with a limestone water table.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Buff-cream colored brick laid in common bond with four rows of stretchers to one row of headers. There are brick string courses at the level of the first and second floor window sills. On the facade the lower string course is of limestone.
4. Structural system: Brick bearing wall.
5. Porches: A two-bay porch is inset in the southwest corner. A wide, gauged brick, Syrian arch with a radius of 5' spans the entrance. An extrados archivolt is formed by a course of projecting and recessed headers with a course of projecting headers above. A smaller, similar arched opening pierces the porch wall on the west side. Decorative cast iron railings enclose part of the porch and run down the seven concrete steps. The newel post simulates a turned wood baluster. Both railings and the newel post appear to be original.

6. Chimneys: There is a brick interior end chimney on the west side of the house to the rear of the dormer. On the east side there are two brick interior end chimneys: one on the side of the main gable roof, the other at the ridge of the gable roof on the projecting bay. The upper sections of the chimneys on the east side have been repaired with pink-red brick. All the chimneys have concrete chimney caps.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: All of the doorways have segmental arched, flat topped, gauged brick lintels and limestone sills. The doors are wood, with three panels and a single light. The main entrance is on the porch in the south gable end. The rear entrance to the first floor hall is approached by two stone and six wood steps supported by brick piers. The rear entrance into the basement has double doors and a flight of six stone steps leading down to it. The door on the west is at ground level and opens on to a landing on the rear stairs between the first floor and the basement.
 - b. Windows: The windows on all four levels have segmental arched, flat topped, gauged brick lintels and limestone sills. On the facade and on the east projecting wing, the windows at the first and second levels are very wide and high. Two windows on the first floor level, one on the facade and one on the east projecting wing, measure 64" across and 70" down. The others measure 52" across and 68" down. Each window is cut by a vertical wood mullion. The basement windows are single sash with two or four lights. The remaining windows are one-over-one light double hung sash with the exception of two third floor level windows on the facade which are twenty-four lights over one.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The roof is a steeply pitched gable covered with asphalt shingles. A cross gable roof on the east side covers a side wing. The front, rear and side gable ends have raked parapets with red, molded, lap jointed terra cotta coping and rounded stone brackets.
 - b. Dormers, cupolas, towers: A gabled dormer on the west side adjacent to the chimney has two windows.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Basement: The basement contains four rooms opening off a hall at the bottom of the back stairs.
- b. First floor: The house has a side hall plan. A small vestibule opens onto a large stair hall which runs along the west side of the house. Three rooms, two living rooms and a dining room, are located on the east side. A half bathroom is located west of the vestibule, and the front stairs are in the center of the stair hall on the west side. At the end of the hall a door closes off the rear of the house which contains a kitchen, pantry, breakfast room, and the rear staircase. There is a rear entrance through a small entryway behind the kitchen.
- c. Second floor: A central hall provides access to two rooms at the front of the house, and two on the east side. Two baths and another room are located on the west side which is divided by two staircases.
- d. Third floor: A central hall provides access to large rooms at the front, rear and east side of the house. Storage areas open off the west side which also contains the rear stairs.

2. Stairways: The front stairway runs from the first to the second floor. It is open string with paneled wainscoting on the side. There are three flights with an open well. The first flight has four stairs, the second, nine and the third, six. The newel posts have rounded pyramidal tops with dentils. A pendant projecting from the ceiling to one side of the well is similar to the newel post. The balusters are turned and are very narrow at the top. The entire stairway including the baseboards and wood paneling on the side of the stairway are constructed of red oak and have been left unpainted.

The rear stairway runs from the basement to the third floor. It is an enclosed dog-leg stair with winders. The balusters and handrail are chamfered. The simple, rectangular newel posts with sides rounded at the top have oval caps. The stairway is constructed of yellow pine with maple treads. The newel posts and balusters are painted white; the stairs are painted gray.

3. Flooring: The basement has concrete floors painted gray. The first and second stories have hardwood floors with boards that measure 2"-1/4" across. The floor on the third story is made up of 3"-1/4" boards painted gray.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The basement has brick walls and unfinished ceilings. The walls and ceiling on the three top floors are plastered and painted an off white. Molded baseboards on the first and second floors are painted, only those going up the front stairway retain their wood finish. The third floor bathroom and one of the basement rooms have wainscoting of beaded yellow pine sheathing.
5. Openings: In the basement some of the rooms are entered through brick segmental arched doorways. At the rear of the house two brick archways provide access into a small room constructed under the rear entryway.

On the first floor, wide rectangular doorways measuring 5' to 6' across provide access from the side stairhall into the main rooms on the east and from one room into another. They have molded architrave trim. A rounded, plastered arched doorway at the end of the side hall provides access to the back of the house. On the second and third floors the doors are paneled. Both doors and frames are painted an off white.

6. Decorative features and trim: A built-in oak sideboard in the dining room has dentils below the shelf similar to those on the newel posts on the front stairway. The open shelves which originally formed the upper half of the side board have been removed. They are in the basement. The original wood finish on this section has been covered with paint.

There are built in cupboards in the breakfast room. The doors are paneled with glass panes at the top. They are presently painted an off white.

The fireplace in the living room is in a projecting chimney breast. A rectangular opening has a black ceramic tile surround with molded wood architrave and a mantelshelf with molded trim. The floor in front of the fireplace is covered with black ceramic tile.

7. Hardware: The door knobs on the second floor doors are wooden with a metal plate with etched geometric designs. A photograph of an identical doorknob was taken in the Lieutenant's Quarters (Building No. 22).

8. Mechanical equipment: The building was constructed with indoor plumbing and steam heat. The present steam heating system relies on oil rather than on coal as it did earlier. Electricity was available to the post as early as 1890, although the original lighting may have been by gas.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The house faces south with the ridge of the main roof running north-south. Situated on the north side of one of the residential loops that run between the parade ground on the west and the lakefront on the east, the house is the second one in from the parade ground. Similar buildings are located on both sides. Evergreen shrubs and a flower garden surround the house.

Prepared by Sally Kress Tompkins
Architectural Historian
Historic American
Buildings Survey
June 1979

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) under the auspices of Interagency Archeological Services, Atlanta and funded by the U.S. Department of Army, Fort Sheridan, Illinois. It included a historical and architectural survey of the fort to provide the necessary data for implementation of the Fort Sheridan Historic District. Documentation was obtained on thirty-one buildings. The survey and documentation were accomplished by Sally Kress Tompkins, an architectural historian on the HABS staff, under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS; Kenneth Anderson, Principal Architect; Carolyn Pitts, Principal Historian, and Allen Chambers, architectural historian and editor. The photographs were taken by William Kumpf of Architectural Camera, Chicago.

ADDENDUM TO
FORT SHERIDAN, CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS (BUILDING NO. 12)
Fort Sheridan Historic District
149 Logan Loop
Fort Sheridan
Lake County
Illinois

HABS No. IL-1113-3

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013